



Adapted for
Montgomery County Fire & Rescue
Driver Training Program



MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE • UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Emergency Vehicle Operator

Lesson 1-2: Selection of Qualified Driver Operators



Student Performance Objective

- After completing this lesson, the student shall be able to identify the process to select qualified driver operators.

Overview

- Selection of Qualified Driver/Operators
- Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators
- Licensing Requirements that Affect Driver/Operator Selection

Selection of Qualified Driver/Operators

- Methods of selecting driver/operators vary by departments

Academy recruit

Academy includes
driver/operator
component

Qualified upon
graduation

Career firefighter

Minimum time of
service

Written test and
performance evaluation

Review of personnel
records

Volunteer firefighter

Training and evaluation

Truck-driving
experience

MCFRS DRIVER QUALIFICATION POLICY 23-07AMII



Driver Certification Procedure

- Outlines application, training, and examination procedures
- Addresses career and volunteer members
- Establishes driving history parameters
- Identifies pre-requisites for qualification on breeds of apparatus
- Basic guidance on collision reporting

Selection of Qualified Driver/Operators

- To safely and efficiently complete assigned tasks, the driver/operator must have a balance of:

Experience

Knowledge

Maturity

Sense of
responsibility

Mental
aptitude

LOGIC



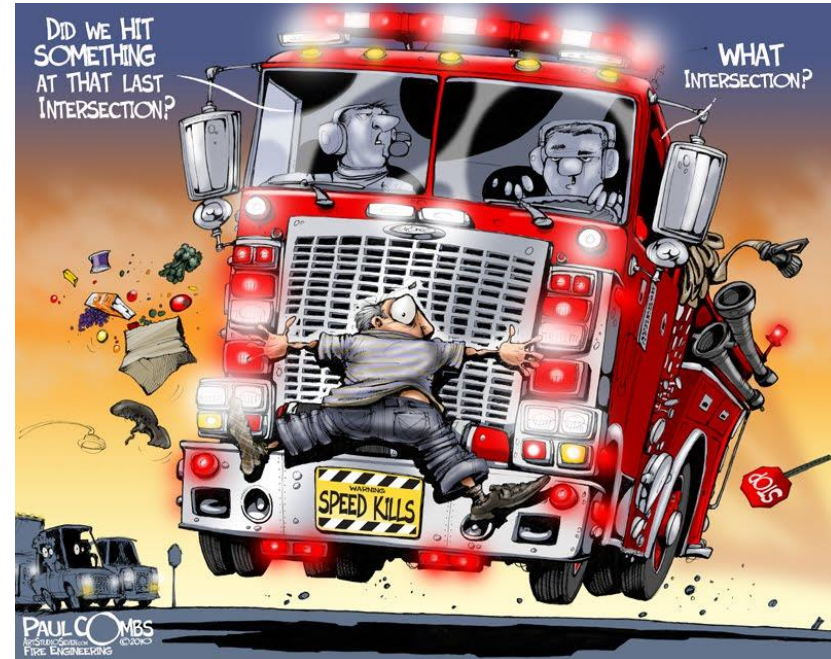
*“YOU HAVE NO RIGHT
TO RISK PEOPLE’S
LIVES ON THE HIGHWAY
TO SAVE
PEOPLE WHO MAY BE
TRAPPED IN A FIRE”*



CONTROLLING THE BEAST

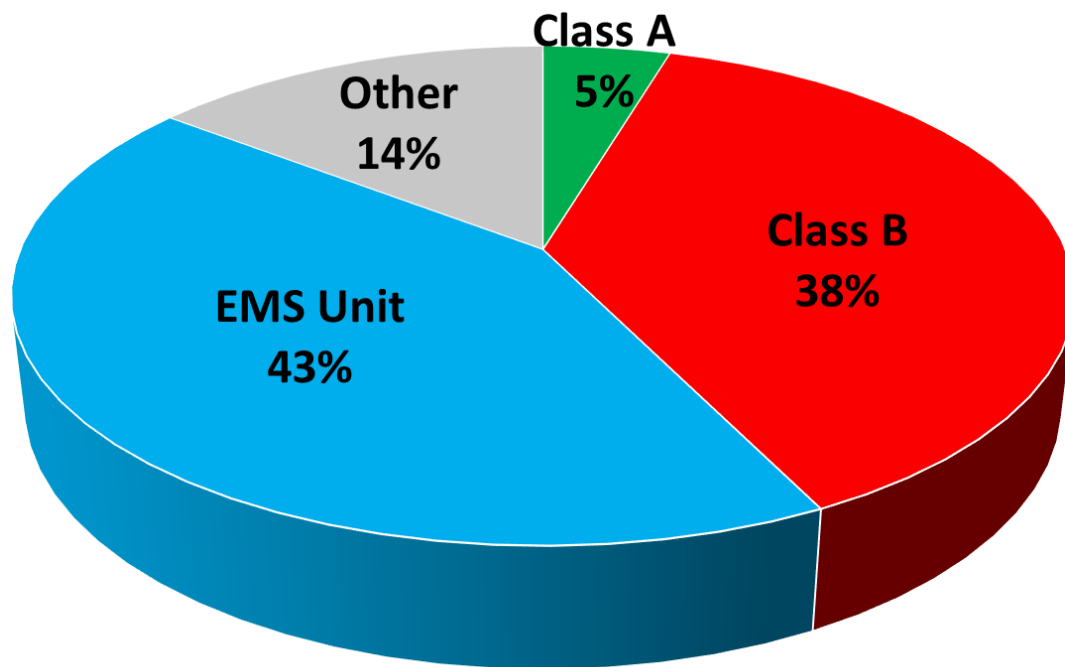
- Since recruit school the emphasis has been SPEED
- When the tones drop the emphasis is SPEED
- Going down the road the emphasis is.....

Being the driver you have to learn to control the aggression and focus it in order to deliver the apparatus safely.



STATISTICS

COLLISIONS BY VEHICLE TYPE – 2013-2015



THE COST OF CRASHES

- Delay help to original incident
- Create a second emergency
- Damage to vehicles and property
 - Loss of use of apparatus
- Cause injury or death
- Effect public image
- Subject you and the organization to lawsuits



SAFE DRIVING PRINCIPLES PHILOSOPHY



We will drive safely despite the incorrect or reckless actions of other roadway users.

Assume the other driver....

-does not see you

-does not hear you

-will not yield to you

-will put their vehicle in your path

SAFE DRIVING PRINCIPLES

RESPONSIBILITY



Drivers are responsible for:

- Ensuring the apparatus is ready for service
- Ensuring the apparatus is maintained and mechanically sound
- Developing and maintaining their own skills and knowledge
- Anticipating lack of skill and knowledge of pedestrians and other drivers
- Maintaining situational awareness to predict hazards and take action to mitigate them
- Knowing and complying with applicable laws and policies

ATTITUDE

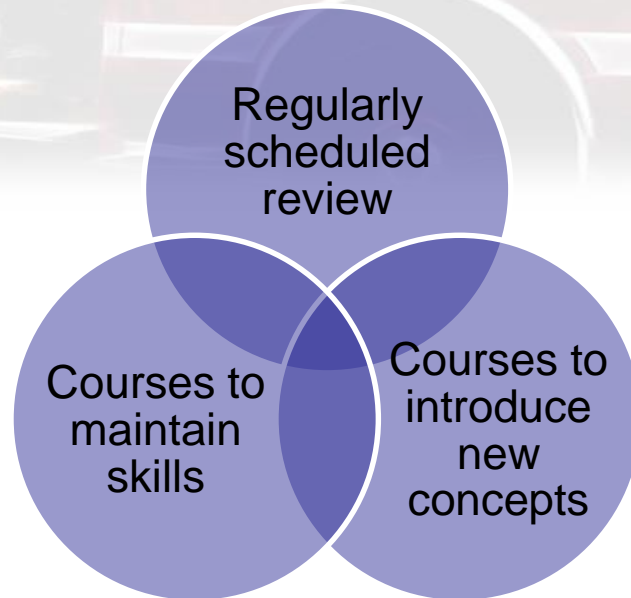
- Arrive safely despite the incorrect or unexpected actions of others
- The right of way isn't yours until it is given to you
- Knowledge and skill are cancelled out by the wrong attitude

**The public has high expectations of the fire service.
It must be your desire to meet them.**



Selection of Qualified Driver/Operators

- All departments must establish and maintain a thorough training program





TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

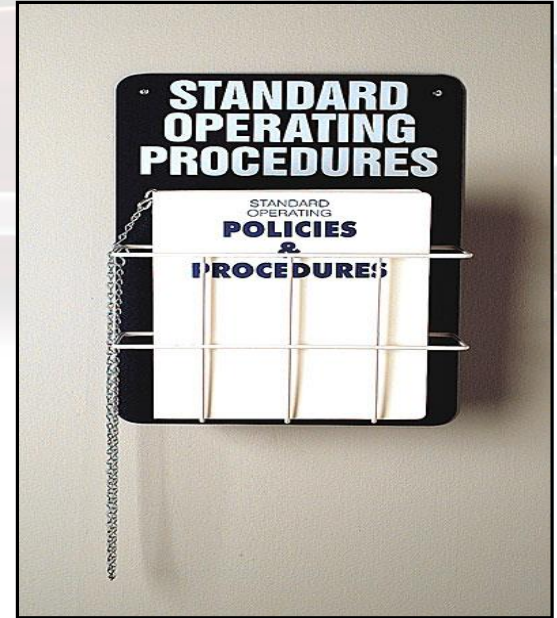
§ 16-102. Persons exempt from licensing requirements

(b) Regulations.

(1) The Administration shall adopt regulations that establish *mandatory training and testing requirements* that a political subdivision that operates a fire department, rescue squad, emergency medical services unit, or volunteer fire department must implement before the political subdivision may authorize an individual to operate an emergency vehicle in accordance with subsection (a)(12) of this section.

Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators

- Reading skills for:
 - Manufacturer's operating instructions
 - Fire Service manuals and periodicals
 - Maps, dispatch instructions, pre-incident plans
 - Department SOPs or SOGs



Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators

- Computer skills to:
 - Access records
 - Prepare and submit requests for supplies/equipment
 - Operate mobile computer
 - Access and operate mapping software
 - Operate and understand electronic systems
 - Understand GPS directions

Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators

- Writing Skills to:
 - Complete maintenance forms and other forms
- Math Skills to:
 - Perform calculations such as friction loss

Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators

- Physical fitness to:
 - Connect an intake to a hydrant
 - Hand stretch supply lines
 - Deploy portable water tank(s)
 - Deploy hard sleeve for drafting
 - Remove heavy equipment from compartments



Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators

- Physical fitness to:
 - Conduct pre-trip inspections
 - Lift Patients
 - Carry stretchers
 - Move patients up/down stairs
 - Carry aid bags/other equipment



Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators

- Visual Acuity
 - NFPA 1582 provides specific vision standards
- Adequate Hearing
 - NFPA 1582 provides specific frequencies a driver/operator must be able to hear

MCFRS GUIDANCE

POLICY 808



Driver's licensing

- Must possess a valid non-provisional motor vehicle operator's license
- License status changes (revocation, suspension, disqualification, downgrades) must be reported to a supervisor and cease driving fire apparatus
- Convictions for any moving violation must be reported to a supervisor

Fitness for duty

- Physical conditions
- Medications
- Fatigue or psychological impairments

Licensing Requirements that Affect Driver/Operator Selection

- In the United States, federal Department of Transportation (DOT) establishes basic requirements for licensing a driver
- In Canada, Transport Canada (TC) has similar authority

Licensing Requirements that Affect Driver/Operator Selection

- Both DOT and TC have special requirements for licensing drivers of large trucks
 - Each state or province can alter them as necessary
 - In some states driver/operators must obtain a CDL
 - Other states exempt fire driver/operators from these licensing requirements
 - Each fire department must be sure that its driver/operators are licensed according to laws applicable in that jurisdiction

COMMERCIAL DRIVERS' LICENSE EXEMPTION



§ 16-102. Persons exempt from licensing requirements

(a) In general. -- The licensing requirements of this title do not apply to:

(12) A member or employee of a fire department, rescue squad, emergency medical service unit, or volunteer fire company while driving an emergency vehicle if the driver:

- (i) Holds a valid Class C license issued to the driver under section 16-104.1 of this subtitle;
- (ii) *Has been authorized by the political subdivision that operates a fire department rescue squad, emergency medical services unit, or volunteer fire department to operate the type of emergency vehicle being driven; and*
- (iii) Is driving the emergency vehicle in the performance of the official duties of the driver in or out of state.

Student Performance Objective

- After completing this lesson, the student shall be able to identify the process to select qualified driver operators.

Review

- Selection of qualified driver/operators
- Abilities and Skills Common to Driver/Operators
- Licensing Requirements that Affect Driver/Operator Selection